

**Island Energy Plan Committee
Wednesday, July 14, 2010
Town Hall, Old Town Road
12:00 noon**

Present: Chair Peter Baute, Ken Lacoste, Kevin Hoyt, Scott Comings and Sam Bird. Committee members Neil Lang, Barbara MacMullan, John Warfel, and Russell Littlefield were absent. Also present were Town Planner Jane Weidman and for the recording of minutes, Deputy Town Clerk Millie McGinnes.

The meeting was legally posted to begin at 12:00 noon, but a quorum was not present. In the absence of a quorum Chair Dr. Baute entertained informal discussion without action on the following points:

- **Review and approve minutes of June 9, 2010 meeting:** No action was taken regarding the minutes.
- Block Island Comprehensive Plan Energy Component - Background

At 12:08 p.m. Mr. Hoyt joined the meeting making a quorum.

Update Comp Plan process – Jane Weidman

Ms. Weidman reviewed a packet she distributed titled “Block Island Comprehensive Plan Energy Component Project Update: July 8, 2010.” The following comments were made:

- Parameters must be developed regarding residential wind turbines.
- Under the Implementing Actions: Solid Waste – Add “explore composting options.”
- A write-up on bio-fuels is needed.
- Add a specific recommendation to look at or initiate a revolving fund for renewable energy projects.
- A write-up on tax incentives for green buildings is needed.
- Transportation needs to be addressed in some fashion.
- Dr. Baute will work with Ms. Weidman to assign sections to Committee members that need work.
- Chris Warfel of Entech Engineering suggested that under Goals and Objectives Electric Power Generation and Distribution the first line be amended to “Reduce (or eliminate) dependence on non-renewable energy,” and not specifically cite BIPCO.
- From the audience, Sean McGarry suggested including the school when addressing municipal electric usage, as it is the largest municipal user.

**Renewable energy opportunities for BI – private and municipal
Presentations by Entech Engineering and Alteris Renewables**

Chris Kearns and Ben Swanson representing Alteris Renewables and Chris Warfel representing Entech Engineering were present.

Mr. Kearns and Mr. Swanson made a presentation regarding wind and solar installations.

Mr. Warfel stated that ways to facilitate the use of renewable energy include increasing the implementation of solar ready homes; establish solar access laws which may include not counting solar arrays in lot coverage numbers and offering property line setback considerations for solar arrays. He noted that Block Island's biggest challenge and priority is the upgrade of the power distribution system.

Discussion ensued regarding power purchase agreements.

Mr. Lacoste left the meeting, adjourning the quorum at 1:17 p.m. In the absence of a quorum, Chair Dr. Baute entertained informal discussion without action on the following point:

- Gasification unit for solid waste disposal presented by Sam Bird.

Discuss plan for August meeting: Energy related opportunities in recycling (Sam Bird, Kevin Hoyt)

No action or discussion ensued.

Millie McGinnes
Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: August 11, 2010